

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. Claim 4 is herein amended. Claims 3, 11-17 and 19-20 are cancelled. Claims 21-32 are added herein. The amendments and newly added claims do not introduce new matter since they are supported by the specification of the present application as filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Myer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,615,088) in view of Coburn (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0120921). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 1, Myer and Coburn fail to show, teach, or suggest a master computer that adjusts an attribute, parameter or operation to configure a first I/O device and subsequently clones properties of a first I/O device. The properties include the attribute, parameter, or operation of the first I/O device to configure a second I/O device. The second I/O device is connected to a network subsequent to the first I/O device.

The Examiner alleges that Myer discloses the cloning of a first I/O device object to create a second I/O device object. Applicants disagree. The Examiner states that the disclosure by Myer of comparing a configuration file with configuration information obtained from a new device when the configuration file exists in a saved directory provides the claimed cloning of Claim 1. In Myers, device configuration files are saved

in a directory. When a new device is plugged in, a master controller searches in the directory for a corresponding configuration file. The new device may provide a corresponding configuration file. The master controller may compare the directory and received configuration files to assure that the most updated file is selected and used. The selecting of the most updated configuration file for a particular device is different than the copying of configuration properties of one device to create an object for another device.

The Examiner further refers to the disclosure by Myer of generating an interface object instance when a configuration file is loaded or upon startup and refers to Col. 6, lines 29-49 of Myer. This is unrelated to the cloning of device properties. Myer in Col. 6, lines 29-49 simply states that a specific device may be configured before or after a specific device interface object is created. There is no mention of copying an I/O device object in col. 6 or elsewhere in Myer.

The Examiner, in yet further attempting to show that Myer discloses the copying of an I/O device object, refers to col. 5, lines 45-67 of Myer. In col. 5, lines 45-67, Myer appears to disclose that the loading of a configuration file causes an instance of a generic device interface object that has knowledge of the specifics of the device to be generated. In Myer a generic device interface object is configured for a new device based on a configuration file. The generic device interface object is not configured for any particular device, but rather provides a basis or template to start with when setting up a new device interface object. The modification of a generic object is clearly different than the copying of a first I/O device object for a first I/O device to generate a second I/O device object for a second device.

Thus, Myer fails to disclose the claimed cloning of Claim 1.

Coburn also fails to disclose the claimed cloning of Claim 1. Coburn is directed to a simulation system and the creation of a virtual environment. Although Coburn appears to instantiate control assemblies, the control assemblies are directed to virtual mechanical mechanisms not real physical I/O devices that are connected to a network. The claimed I/O devices of Claim 1 are connected to a network of an industrial site.

The first and second I/O devices are physical I/O devices. This is clear from the claimed language of Claim 1. Claim 1 recites connections between the I/O devices and a network of an industrial control system. Claim 1 also recites a master computer that is connected to the network. The I/O devices and the master computer are clearly actual physical elements. The claimed system of Claim 1 allows an I/O device to be cloned and attributes, parameters, and operations of the resulting I/O device object to be modified.

Contrarily, the mechanical mechanisms of Coburn are part of a virtual environment and thus are not actually connected to an industrial site network. Thus, Coburn does not disclose the configuring, modifying or cloning of actual industrial site I/O devices.

As admitted to by the Examiner, Myer also fails to disclose the modifying of attributes of a second I/O device object after copying of a first I/O device object. The Examiner relies on Coburn for this disclosure.

To show disclosure of modifying second I/O device object attributes, the Examiner alleges that Coburn discloses a control assembly type that is a reusable component containing a number of user selectable properties. Since Coburn fails to

disclose the cloning of physical I/O devices, Coburn also fails to disclose modification of a cloned copy of an I/O device object of a physical I/O device and/or the sending of that I/O device object over a network.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974), see MPEP §2143.03.

According to the Supreme Court when an explicit teaching or suggestion is absent from a secondary reference, the Examiner is required to explicitly support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). See *KSR International Co., v. Teleflex, Inc. et al.*, 550 U.S. (___), 82 U.S.P.Q.2d 1385, 2007. It is "important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the [prior art] elements" in the manner claimed. *Id.* Often, it will be necessary... to look to interrelated teachings of multiple patents; the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace; and the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art, all in order to determine whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issue. *Id.* To facilitate review, this analysis should be made explicit. *Id.* Therefore, in formulating a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon a combination of prior art elements, it remains necessary to identify the reason why a person of ordinary skill in the art would have combined the prior art elements in the manner claimed. *Id.* It is respectfully submitted that the Patent Office has not made a legally sufficient showing of a motivation to combine and modify based on an explicit analysis.

Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable for at least the above reasons. Claim 10 includes similar limitations as Claim 1 and is allowable for at least similar reasons. Claims 2-9 and 11-31 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 10 and are allowable for at least similar reasons.

With respect to Claims 22, Myer and Coburn fail to show, teach or suggest a master computer that is coupled to a first network via a second network and that performs cloning of an I/O device that is connected to the first network, as claimed. This allows remote cloning and modifying of I/O device objects by engineers at locations remote from an industrial site, as described in paragraph [0031] of the present application.

As best understood by Applicant, Myer discloses a master controller 36 that is part of a control area network 30. The master controller 36 is in communication with the Internet 22 via network connectivity 34. Although Myer appears to disclose another control area network 31, the control area network 30 is not in communication with the control area network 31.

The master controller 36 of Myer has installation software for the appliances 37-39 in the control area network 30. The master controller does not have installation software for appliances outside of the control area network 30. Thus, the master controller 36 does not configure appliances outside the control area network 30.

As best understood by Applicant, Coburn discloses a modeling system that includes multiple devices that are networked together via a single network. The devices and network are part of a computer system. See FIGs. 1 and 90 of Coburn. Thus,

Coburn discloses only a single network and does not disclose the remote cloning and modifying claimed.

Therefore, Claim 22 is further allowable for at least the above reasons.

With respect to Claim 30, Myer and Coburn fail to show, teach or suggest a master computer that is selectively coupled to multiple networks and that includes control software for defining attributes and operations of an I/O device on selectively on of the networks.

Myer discloses a master controller that is coupled to a single network and only configures appliances in that network. Coburn also only discloses a single network. Myer and Coburn also fail to disclose local and remote cloning, modifying and configuring of actual I/O devices.

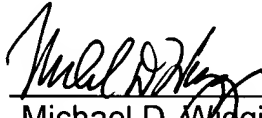
Therefore, Claim 30 is further allowable for at least the above reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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